

REMARKS

Responsive to the Office Action mailed on October 20, 2006 in the above-referenced application, Applicant respectfully requests amendment of the above-identified application in the manner identified above and that the patent be granted in view of the arguments presented. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Present Status of Application

Claims 1-12 are allowed. Claims 13-15, 19, 20, 22-26, 29, 32, 33 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Boudinot (US 2003/0025367). Claims 21, 27, 30, 31, 34, 37 and 38 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 16-18, 28 and 35 are withdrawn from consideration.

In this paper, claim 19 is amended to include the limitations of claim 21, claim 25 is amended to include the limitations of claim 27, and claim 32 is amended to include the limitations of claim 34. In addition, new claims 39-46 are added, wherein claim 39 includes the limitations of claims 25 and 30, and claim 43 includes the limitations of claims 32 and 37. Claims 13-18, 21, 26-31, 33-35 and 38 are canceled without prejudice. Thus, on entry of this amendment, claims 1-12, 19-20, 22-25, 32, 36-37 and 39-46 remain in the application.

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and the remarks contained below.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 1-12 and indicating that claims 21, 27, 30, 31, 34, 37 and 38 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Given that after this amendment each of independent claims 19, 25, 32, 39 and 43 contains subject matter indicated as allowable by the Examiner, Applicant submits that claims 19-20, 22-25, 32 and 36-37 and 39-46 are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

The Applicant believes that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests so. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. **502447**. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to Deposit Account No. **502447**.

Respectfully submitted,

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